



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

CHILDREN & FAMILIES
COMMISSION

San Joaquin County Children and Families Commission Executive Summary of Secondary Data Indicator Report

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POPULATION

- According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are nearly 45,000 children ages 0 through 4 in San Joaquin County, representing 8% of the total population of nearly 564,000. That percentage is somewhat higher than for California, where children 0 through 4 represent 7.3% of the total population. The cities with the highest percentage of children ages 0 through 4 are Tracy (9.4%), Lathrop (8.8%) and Stockton (8.6%).
- California Department of Finance projections estimate an increase of 15,675 children ages 0 through 4 between 2000 and 2010, an increase of 35%, and an additional increase of 15,104 children ages 0 through 4 between 2010 and 2020, representing an additional increase of 25% during that time period. The cities with the largest growth in the 0 through 4 population between 1990 and 2000 are Tracy and Lathrop, with growth rates of 55% and 44%, respectively.

RACE/ETHNICITY

- In keeping with general population trends, the population of children ages 0 through 4 in San Joaquin County is becoming increasingly diverse. The percentage of Caucasian and Asian/Pacific Islander children has fallen during the past decade, while the proportion of Hispanic and African-American children has increased. Whereas Caucasian children were the dominant group in 1990, they are on a par with Hispanic children in 2000.

HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE

- Families comprise 74% of all households in San Joaquin County and nearly 41% of all households include children under the age of 18. The average family size in San Joaquin County is 3.48 individuals, which is compared to the average of 3.43 for California.
- There are nearly 16,000 households headed by single mothers in San Joaquin County, representing 9% of all households. The percentage of female-headed households varies by city; the highest percentages are found in the unincorporated areas (17%), Stockton (16%), Lodi (11%) and Manteca (11%).

EDUCATION

- Adult educational attainment is closely correlated with income and other factors associated with child well-being. Adult educational attainment in San Joaquin County is considerably lower than statewide averages. Overall, 13% of County residents have a BA or graduate degree, compared with 24% statewide. Conversely, 31% of

the population has not completed high school, compared with 23% in California. The cities and towns with the highest rates of no high school degree are Thorton (30%), Lathrop (22%), Stockton (21%) and Victor (19%).

- Educational attainment varies significantly within the City of Stockton as well. The highest educational levels are found in Northwest Stockton (95219 zipcode), where 38% of the population has a college degree, while the lowest levels are found in Southwest Stockton (95201 and 95206 zip codes), where 42% of the population has not completed high school.
- A school's Academic Performance Index (API) is based on students' performance on the state achievement exam. Each school is assigned a rank, which is based on how the school compares to other schools statewide, and on how it compares to schools with similar socio-economics. These rankings can range from 1 to 10; a 10 means that the school scored between the 90th and 99th percentiles statewide; similarly, a 1 means that the school scored between the first and the tenth percentile. API scores for elementary schools in San Joaquin County reveal a wide range in performance. Of the 76 elementary schools in the county, 38 (50%) were ranked 1, 2 or 3, which is alarmingly high.

LOW-INCOME CHILDREN

- According to the U.S. Census, an estimated 28% of children under age five in San Joaquin County were living in poverty in 1997 (most recent available data), which is comparable to the rate for California (26%).
- 12,060 children under the age of 5 were receiving TANF during 1999, representing nearly one in four children.
- Since poverty guidelines are generally considered lower than the actual amount of income required to support a family, a useful indicator of the percent of low-income children is the number of children receiving free or subsidized school meals. Overall, 48% of all children in San Joaquin County received free or subsidized meals during the 1998-1999 school year, which is virtually equivalent to the rate for California (47.6%). School districts with the highest percentage of children receiving free or subsidized meals are Holt Union Elementary, New Hope Elementary, Delta Island Union Elementary and Stockton Unified.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

- Children under the age of five accounted for 161 asthma hospitalizations in 1999, up from 150 in 1997 and 142 in 1998. Of those in 1999, 35 were infants under one year of age and 126 were children ages 1-4.

- Asthma hospitalization rates for children 0-14 vary considerably by race/ethnicity. At nearly 700 per 100,000 children, rates for African Americans are over three times higher than the County average. Conversely, Asian/Pacific Islander children exhibit hospitalization rates almost half the County average, while rates for Caucasian and Hispanic children are slightly below County averages. (Asthma hospitalization rates for 0 through 4 years by race/ethnicity are not available.)
- At 93.3%, the percentage of children entering kindergarten in 2000 with all required immunizations is higher than the rate for California, but lower than the Healthy People 2010 target rate of 95%.
- There were 395 nonfatal hospitalized injuries among children 0 through 4 between 1997 and 1999. Falls accounted for 25% of those injuries, followed by poisoning (23%) and motor vehicle crashes (11%).
- There were 23 fatal injuries among children ages 0 through 4 between 1997 and 1999. Six (26%) of those deaths were caused by homicide, while five (22%) were caused by drowning, motor vehicle crashes and suffocation, respectively.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- According to the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, an estimated 13% of children ages 0-18 in San Joaquin County lack health insurance. While this figure is unacceptably high, it does compare favorably to the California average of approximately 19% of children without health insurance.
- Approximately 10,524 children are enrolled in the Healthy Families program, representing 5.8% of children under the age of 18 in San Joaquin County. However, many more children (6,292 as of June 2001) have tried to access health care through Healthy Families and have been deemed ineligible (for reasons such as family income and immigration status), again indicating the unmet need for health care.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- There were 9,926 live births in San Joaquin County in 2000. The 1998 birth rate (births per 1,000 population) in San Joaquin County was 15.7 per 1,000 population, which is slightly lower than the 1997 San Joaquin County birth rate of 16.1.
- Hispanic women have the highest birth rates in San Joaquin County, followed by African Americans. At 24.4 births per 1,000 population, the birth rate among Hispanic women is considerably higher than the County average.

- As with other parts of the country, births to adolescent mothers have declined in recent years. There were 1,380 births to adolescent mothers in San Joaquin County in 2000, representing 14% of all births. While birth rates for adolescent mothers have declined in recent years, they remain higher than rates for California.
- San Joaquin County has a very low rate of access to early prenatal care. Nearly 28% of women giving birth do not access prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy, nearly three times higher than the Healthy People 2010 objective of 10%. Rates of access to late prenatal care are lower yet for adolescent mothers, 33% of whom do not receive prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy. Access to prenatal care varies by city: the cities with the highest rates of low access to care are Stockton (33%), Lodi (28%), Tracy (27%) and Lathrop (26%).
- At 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, the infant mortality rate in San Joaquin County is above the Healthy People 2010 objective of 4.5. Infant mortality rates vary by ethnicity. Rates for African-Americans (14.6 per 1,000 live births) are over twice as high as the County average; Asian/Pacific Islanders also exhibit high rates of infant mortality (7.9 per 1,000 live births).
- The rate of low birthweight infants in San Joaquin County was 5.5% in 1999, slightly lower than the rate for California (6.1%). Of those, 4.4% were low birthweight (1,500-2,499 grams), while 1.1% were very low birthweight, or under 1,500 grams at birth.

FAMILY SAFETY

- The number of calls for assistance for domestic violence fell to 3,829 in 1999, from a high of 6,023 in 1995. Approximately 77% of all domestic violence related calls involved weapons during the period 1992-1999. Domestic violence related calls vary by city within San Joaquin County. Stockton has the highest rate, with 85.4 calls per 10,000 population, followed by Manteca, with 80.6 per 10,000 population.
- There were 14.5 substantiated cases of child abuse per 1,000 children in San Joaquin County during 2000, higher than the rate of 11.6 cases per 1,000 children statewide. Child abuse referral rates vary by city within the county. The highest referral rates per 1,000 population are in Stockton (31.4), followed by Escalon (25.7) and Manteca (20.8).
- There were 1,365 children in foster care in San Joaquin County in 2000, down from 1,686 in 1990. The rate of children in foster care in San Joaquin County has declined during the past decade, from 11.1 per 1,000 children in 1990 to 7.5 per 1,000 children in 2000. The rate of children in foster care has remained constant during the past three years, at approximately 7.5 per 1,000 children in 1998. These rates are considerably lower than the average rate of 10.1 per 1,000 children in California during the period 1998-2000.

CHILD CARE

- There are 783 permanent licensed child care providers in San Joaquin County, with an estimated 16,000 slots for children of all ages. There are an additional 21 seasonal child care centers, with approximately 850 slots.
- San Joaquin County is able to meet only 25% of the demand for child care. With 1,600 slots for children between the ages of 0-3, and an estimated demand of 5,600-7,500, there is a current gap of 4,000-5,800 child care slots. There is a gap of approximately 2,700 child care slots in Stockton, which accounts for nearly half of the gap in the County. Additionally, there are approximately 5,000 children on the waiting list for child care through the Family Resource and Referral Center, which helps parents access low-cost child care.
- Child care costs can comprise approximately 8-27% of median family income in San Joaquin County, depending on the number and ages of children requiring care. However, since cost estimates are based on median family income and up to two children requiring care, the cost of child care as a percentage of household income can be significantly higher for lower-income families and/or those with more than two children requiring care.